REMARKS

Claims 48, 50, 51, 53 – 58, 60 – 61, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,235,982, issued to Maslanka. Maslanka discloses organic pigments for use as fillers for paper. The organic pigments are finely divided particles obtained by graft copolymerizing an ethylenically unsaturated monomer onto a water-soluble cationic prepolymer in an aqueous solution. As stated in column 9, lines 46 – 48 of Maslanka, "[d]rying the latex to a fine powder is not usually possible when the graft copolymer particles have reactive functionality." This is in direct contrast to the present invention which requires, in claim 48, "copolymer particles having reactive functionality." Likewise, claim 66 requires that the copolymer be formed "having one or more reactive function groups". As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires identity of invention, in view of the significant differences between Maslanka and the present application, it is respectfully submitted that claims 48, 50, 51, 53 – 58, 60 – 61, 65 and 66 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Maslanka.

Claims 48 – 58, 60 – 62, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,171,764, issued to Katayama. Katayama discloses a resin composition for electrodepositable paint comprising 1) a resin containing a hydroxyl group and a cationic group; 2) an epoxy resin containing at least 2 epoxy group-containing functional groups with an epoxy group bound to an alicyclic skeleton and/or a bridged alicyclic skeleton; and 3) a finely divided gelled polymer. The finely divided polymer of Katayama is latex particles and is not a redispersible powder such as that of the present invention. There is no disclosure in Katayama of redispersible powders such as those of the present invention. Numerous other differences exist between the present invention and Katayama. Katayama requires the use of an isocyanate and the present invention does not require an isocyanate. Further, in Katayama the cationic monomer is part of the core (column 2, line 46), while in the present invention the cationic monomer has latex stabilizing functionality, thus being part of the shell. As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires identity of invention, in view of the significant differences between Katayama and the present application, it is respectfully submitted that claims 48 – 58, 60 – 62, 65 and 66 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Katayama.

Claims 48, 53 – 62, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6, 011,103, issued to Inoue or under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) by 97/31045. US 6,011,103 is the English translation of WO 97/31045. Inoue discloses a process for preparing an aqueous dispersion of a cationic fine grain gel. There is no reference within Inoue to a redispersible powder such as that of the present invention. Further, the "grain" of Inoue is not a powder particle, but instead is a microemulsion particle of a small size surrounded by water. As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires identity of invention, in view of the significant differences between Inoue and the present application, it is respectfully submitted that claims 48, 53 – 62, 65 and 66 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Inoue.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 18, 2004